

Page 11, line 22, delete "5a", insert --5b--.

Page 19, line 2, delete "While", insert --During--;  
line 3, delete "caluculation", insert --calculation--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Sub B1 Claim 1. (Amended) An image recording method comprising the steps of:  
attaching recording paper on an outer peripheral surface of a recording drum;  
forming an image receiving layer uniformly on a surface of at least a whole of a  
recording region of the recording paper; and  
transferring the toner on a toner sheet onto a surface of the image receiving layer to  
record an image thereon in accordance with recording data.

Claim 2. (Amended) The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a  
cushion layer is formed between the surface of the recording paper and the image receiving layer  
and in physical contact with the surface of the recording paper.

Sub B2  
Q3 Ea Claim 4. (Amended) The image recording method as set forth in claim 3, wherein  
the image receiving sheet includes a cushion layer therebeneath, and the image receiving layer is

Sub 67  
93 transferred such that the cushion layer is placed between the surface of the recording paper and the receiving layer and in physical contact with the surface of the recording layer.

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Claim 7, line 3, after "measuring", insert --a--;  
line 5, after "adjusting", insert --a--;  
line 6, delete "value of", insert --thicknesses provided by--.

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ay Claim 10. (Amended) The image recording method as set forth in claim 7, where [the] measured [value] thickness values provided by [of] the thickness detecting means [with respect to all the predetermined detection area is] are prestored [once stored] in a memory means for an entire scanning area of the toner sheet where the toner is to be transferred by the laser beam, and the focal point of the laser beam is subsequently adjusted in accordance with the stored [value] thickness values.

Claim 11. (Amended) The image recording method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the thickness of the recording paper is measured [from a position] at an opposite side of the rotating drum relative to where the [rotating direction of] laser beam is located with respect to the recording drum, and the focal position of the laser beam is adjusted in real time.

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Claim 12, line 2, delete "apparatus" and insert --method--.

**Kindly add the following new claims:**

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-- 13. An image recording apparatus comprising:

a recording drum;

a laser beam located on a first side of the recording drum and operable to direct light towards the recording drum; and

a recording medium thickness determining means located on a second side of the recording drum which is opposite to said first side where said laser beam is located, wherein the laser beam is focused depending on an output of the recording medium thickness determining means.

14. An image recording apparatus comprising:

a recording drum;

a laser beam operable to direct light towards the recording drum;

a thickness detecting means operable to determine a thickness profile of a recording material disposed on the recording drum;

a memory for storing said thickness profile provided by said thickness detecting means, said thickness profile including data for a two-dimensional region of scanning for said laser beam; and

a focusing means for adjusting a focal length of said laser according to the thickness profile stored in said memory.